


# **FRANCIS HOWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN**

Updated March 7, 2024

As the Francis Howell School District prepares to enter into the 2023-2024 school year, the District will continue with our pre-pandemic health and safety policies, procedures, and protocols.

**2023-2024**



The following plan elements are necessary to include per the requirements for ESSERIII funding (2022-2025). If a spike in COVID-19 occurs in our community and/or our District, this plan may be revised. Any changes will be communicated to our parents and community.

### **FACE MASKS**

- Masks are not required in the Francis Howel School District; however, they can be worn if desired by an individual. Current CDC recommendations for mask usage depending on the levels of community transmission can be found on the CDC website.

### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

- There is no cohorting at this time beyond normal grade level and/or class groupings.

### **HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE**

- We continue to focus on proper health etiquette as we typically do via policies and procedures.

### **CLEAN AND HEALTHY FACILITIES**

- We continue to focus on proper cleaning as we typically do via policies and procedures.

**2023-2024**



## **CONTACT TRACING AND QUARANTINE**

- The District has discontinued the use of the COVID-19 dashboard and contact tracing for isolation and/or quarantine. Students and staff do not need to report positive COVID-19 cases, but should follow the District's standard absence reporting protocols if unable to attend school or work due to illness.

## **DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING**

- Testing for COVID-19 is not available in the District. We ask that staff and families continue to self-screen and monitor for illnesses per our policies and procedures.

## **VACCINATIONS**

- The District is not providing COVID-19 vaccinations at this time.

## **APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS**

- We continue to focus on appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities through current District policies and procedures.

**2023-2024**

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

In-person instruction will begin August 21, 2023, for Francis Howell School District students. Virtual learning options are available to students for the 2023-24 school year. Due to limited enrollment, virtual students will be placed with a third-party virtual course vendor. Participation in the virtual program should be determined to be in the best educational interest of the student. This determination is made through consultation between educators, parents/guardians, and students.

The District will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and the community. Should in-person instruction be interrupted by a COVID-19 shutdown, students enrolled in virtual programming will continue with their platform. In-person students will shift to online instruction provided by FHSD teachers.

FHSD provides a number of resources for students who are served through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies in this document will be made as necessary or as mandated by the IEP. If in-person instruction is interrupted by a COVID-19 shutdown, students' individualized plans will be implemented.

2023-2024



## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS**

FHSD will continue to tend to students' social, emotional and mental health needs during the 2023-24 school year by teaching positive coping skills and referring students to the counseling or care teams as necessary.

FHSD staff are eligible to take advantage of free services provided by the District's employee assistance program. Resources include health and wellness resources, financial support, and crisis tools. The District also offers a mobile app to support the social, mental and behavioral health of staff. The app helps staff build resilience, improve communication, learn keys to good mental health, and practice mindfulness and breathing exercises.

## **SCHOOL CLINICS**

Francis Howell School District Registered Nurses continue to play an important role in maintaining a safe, successful learning environment. Clinics have been stocked with the appropriate resources and information to maintain a healthy environment throughout the year.

All school nurses have a supply of gloves, disposable gowns, and N95 masks.

**2023-2024**

## STUDENT AND/OR STAFF ILLNESS

Consistent with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 cases will be treated in the same manner as other common respiratory viruses, including flu and RSV. Students and staff who are sick should stay home and away from others until at least 24 hours after both their symptoms are getting better overall, and they have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication). Note that depending on the length of symptoms, this period could be shorter, the same, or longer than the previous guidance for COVID-19, which recommended a minimum isolation period of 5 days.

A student with symptoms that reports to the nurse's clinic once at school will have their temperature, lung sounds and pulse oximetry checked. If a student has a fever or two or more of the following symptoms, a parent will be contacted. The student will be sent home, and they can return to school at a minimum of 24 hours after symptom resolution without medication.

- Temperature  $> 100.4$
- Pulse oximetry  $< 90\%$
- Audible adventitious lung sounds
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- New loss of taste or smell
- Eye drainage
- Rash with itching or drainage

2023-2024



## REVIEW AND REVISION

Revisions will be made as necessary according to changing pandemic conditions. At a minimum, this plan will be reviewed and revised every six months as required by the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Act. Input from stakeholders is gathered via email, calls, and public comments at Board of Education meetings. The Superintendent will continue to provide updates through reports at Board of Education meetings throughout the year, on the District website, and by communication to staff and parents/guardians as necessary.

2023-2024